

### ABSTRACT

A cartridge for treating water, the cartridge capable of releasably engaging a water treatment device. The cartridge includes a housing, an inlet for introducing untreated water into the cartridge, an outlet port for egress of treated water from the cartridge, and a treatment media for treating untreated water. The treatment media is in fluid communication with the inlet and the outlet port. The cartridge further includes a first tube having an inside surface, an outside surface, a proximal end, and a distal end, where the inside surface and/or the outside surface is a sealing surface. The cartridge further includes a second tube having an inside surface, an outside surface, a proximal end, and a distal end, where the inside surface and/or the outside surface is a sealing surface. The first tube extends from the housing and surrounds the outlet port. At least a portion of the first tube or the second tube surrounds the other such that a gap is formed between the first tube and the second tube. The gap is capable of holding a volume of water. The first tube extends outwardly from the housing and surrounds the outlet port, and the second tube extends outwardly from the housing and surrounds the first tube such that a gap is formed between the first and second tubes, the gap capable of holding from about 0.1 ml to about 6 ml of water when the cartridge is not sealingly engaged to the water treatment device, and such that the distal end of the second tube extends a greater distance than the distal end of the first tube from the housing, and such that at least one of the sealing surfaces of the second tube extends a greater distance than at least one of the sealing surfaces of the first tube from the housing.

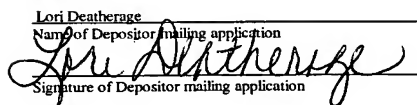
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